

## REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 1 to 5 and 11 to 17.

The above amendment is responsive to points set forth in the Official Action.

New claim 16 has been added and support appears in paragraphs [0020], [0021], and Examples 4 and 5 of the present specification.

Support for new claim 17 appears in paragraphs [0020], [0022], and Examples 3 and 5 of the present specification.

The significance of the above amendment to claim 1 will become further apparent from the remarks below.

Claims 1, 3 to 7 and 11 to 15 are newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okushita et al. (U.S. 6,297,345).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Okushita et al. discloses a polyamide with excellent stretching properties, which comprises 50 to 99.8 mol % of a lactam and/or an aminocarboxylic acid, 0.1 to 25 mol % of a dicarboxylic acid, and 0.1 to 25 mol % of a diamine component containing 10 to 100 mol % of at least one compound selected from a branched saturated diamine, a branched alicyclic diamine, and a nonbornanediamine. Thus, the polyamide disclosed by Okushita et al. is composed of the above three components, i.e., the lactam and/or aminocarboxylic acid unit, the dicarboxylic acid unit and the diamine unit.

In contrast, the polyamide of the present invention is obtained by polycondensation of only a diamine component and a dicarboxylic acid component and has the properties (1) to (4) as shown in claim 1.

The structure of the present invention is unobviously different from the structure of the invention of Okushita et al.

Therefore, the present invention is not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102. It is also apparent that the functions and effects of the present invention are different from those of Okushita et al. because of the above structural difference.

Accordingly, the rejection on Okushita et al. is untenable.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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